

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05274 181522Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5274

EXDIS-MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM EVACUATION

1. IN ORDER TO CORRECT SOME APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS IT APPEARS NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE TO ALL ADDRESSEES THE NATURE OF OUR CURRENT PROBLEM IN REDUCING RAPIDLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY THE NUMBER OF NON-OFFICIAL RPT NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED DEPENDENTS CURRENTLY IN VIETNAM AND THE STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

2. BRIEFLY STATED THE PROBLEM ARISES IN CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN VIETNAM WHO WERE IN THE PAST ASSOCIATED EITHER WITH THE US MILITARY FORCES OR DOD AND AID CONTRACTORS. IT INCLUDES A GOOD NUMBER OF MILITARY RETIREES WHO HAVE SETTLED DOWN IN VIETNAM. IT ALSO APPLIES TO A NUMBER OF US CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WHO RECENTLY HAVE BEEN OR ARE NOW BEING TERMINATED.

3. A LARGE NUMBER OF THESE NON-OFFICIAL US CITIZEN RESIDENTS HAVE MARRIED VIETNAMESE WOMEN AND ESTABLISHED LOCAL FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS. IN OTHER CASES THEY HAVE LIVED WITH VIETNAMESE IN A COMMON-LAW RELATIONSHIP AND HAVE ONLY NOW, UNDER THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS, DECIDED TO LEGALIZE THE MARRIAGES. DESPITE MULTIPLE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05274 181522Z

URGING ON PART OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION THESE PEOPLE ARE

UNWILLING TO LEAVE WITHOUT THEIR FAMILIES. AS INDICATED IN OUR STATISTICAL REPORTS THE PROBLEM INVOLVES 1500 OR MORE ALIEN DEPENDENTS OF PERHAPS 500 TO 600 US CITIZENS.

4. WE HAVE TAKEN EXTRAORDINARY STEPS WITH THE GVN AUTHORITIES AND HAVE OBTAINED THEIR COOPERATION IN A RAPIDLY ACCELERATED PROCESS OF OBTAINING VIETNAMESE EXIT VISAS FOR THESE VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THIS IS A PROCESS WHICH USUALLY TAKES ABOUT THREE MONTHS. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, THE VIETNAMESE HAVE AGREED TO WAIVE VIRTUALLY ALL REQUIREMENTS WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD TO BE MET BEFORE SUCH EXIT VISAS WOULD BE GRANTED. THIS INCLUDES WAIVER OF POLICE CHECKS, WAIVER OF VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SUCH AS MARRIAGE AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES AS WELL AS WAIVER OF TAX RECORD CHECKS TO INSURE THAT THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED HAVE PAID ALL TAXES. MORE THAN THAT, THE VIETNAMESE HAVE AGREED TO A SYSTEM BY WHICH EXIT VISAS WILL BE GRANTED ON A LAISSEZ-PASSER WHICH WE HAVE DESIGNED AND ELIMINATE THE PASSPORT REQUIREMENT. A PROCESS WHICH PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED THREE MONTHS IS THUS BEING REDUCED TO THREE DAYS OR LESS.

5. THE PROCESSING SYSTEM UNDER THIS ABBREVIATED PROCEDURE BEGINNING WHERE NECESSARY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF A LEGAL MARRIAGE AND ENDING IN ISSUANCE OF A PAROLE DOCUMENT BY A CONSULAR OFFICER AND THEN PUTTING PEOPLE ABOARD AN AIRPLANE AS INSTITUTED BEGINNING THIS MORNING. FOR ANYONE EVEN VAGUELY FAMILIAR WITH VIETNAMESE BUREAUCRACY AND THE FRENCH BUREAUCRATIC TRADITION WHICH PERMEATES IT THE MERE INTRODUCTION AND OPERATION OF SUCH A SYSTEM IS NOTHING SHORT OF MIRACULOUS.

6. AS THE SYSTEM IS BEING STARTED IT WOULD BE MUCH TO EXPECT THAT IT WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FREE OF PROCEDURAL BOTTLENECKS. HOWEVER, THESE ARE BEING IDENTIFIED RAPIDLY AND STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO BREAK THEM. ALL MISSION ELEMENTS AND ESPECIALLY OUR CONSULAR PEOPLE AND DAO ARE COOPERATING IN THIS EFFORT

WE WILL CALL FORWARD TRANSPORTATION AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN FILL IT WITH THESE PEOPLE AND OTHER EVACUEES.

7. ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOTE THAT ANY PUBLICITY WHATEVER ABOUT THIS WOULD RUIN THE PROCEDURE AND, THEREFORE, MUST BE AVOIDED.
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 05274 181522Z

MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 5274 HEADING GARBLED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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